



The Blue Beret

Wednesday

10th March

1971

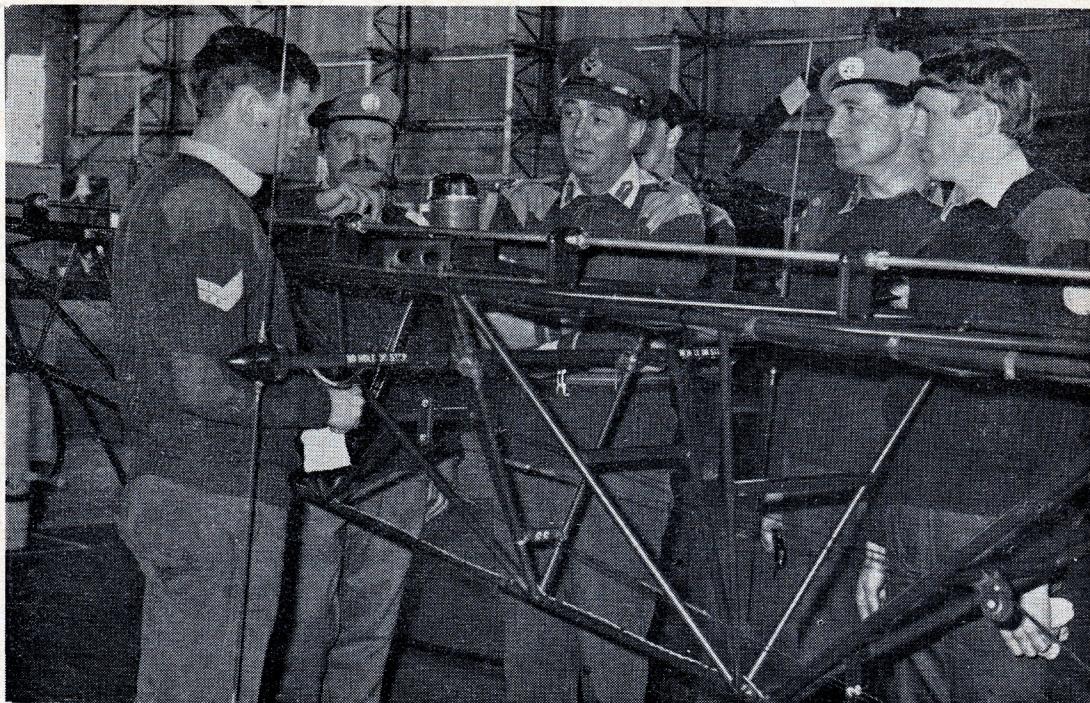
Issued by the Public Information Office
of the United Nations Force in Cyprus.

Volume Eight No. 50

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT

The following statement was made by Mr. Heath in the House of Commons on Tuesday 2nd March during a debate on defence policy.

... "I want now to turn to the broader issue, which is the question of United Nations Peace-Keeping Forces. We have endeavoured to support the United Nations in this, but for too long a United Nations Force has been needed in Cyprus. We wish to see a settlement there and an end to the need for a peace-keeping operation. A more determined effort is now required to solve the differences which took the Force there seven years ago. For one reason, namely that there are other possibilities of peace-keeping forces being required in other parts of the world. I do not believe that we shall be able to persuade other countries constantly to support the United Nations in peace-keeping endeavours if they find that a peace-keeping force is not a means to resolve a situation and to give time for diplomacy to work, but is merely a permanent commitment which seems to be unending. This is our view about the Force in Cyprus, but in the meantime we are maintaining our contingent there."



OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we announce the death on 4th March, of Lance Corporal Keith Trusswell, a member of the British Contingent. He died from multiple injuries sustained in an accident while parachuting at Kingsfield airstrip Dhekelia.

Lance Corporal Trusswell, who came from Aldershot, was aged 21 and married. He was a member of the Royal Army Medical Corps and was attached to the Medical Centre at HQ UNFICYP. He had been serving with the Force for 5 months.

At the request of his Next of Kin, his body has been repatriated to the United Kingdom.

On 2nd March, the GOC NEARELF, Major General M.W. Holme CBE, MC, paid a visit to Nicosia to inspect units of Britcon attached to HQ UNFICYP. The group pictured above shows (from L to R) Corporal M.J. Powell (since promoted Sergeant), Major J. Bedford Davies — the OC UNFICYP Aviation Flight, the GOC, Colonel D.E. Thornton, Commander Britcon, and Corporal M. W. Duke.

FINNISH NATIONAL PRESENTATION

On 3rd March, members of the Finnish Contingent gave a presentation entitled "Finland" to a representative audience drawn from all the different national contingents in UNFICYP. The guests were welcomed by Lieutenant Colonel E.T. Lehtovirta.

REPEAT PERFORMANCE

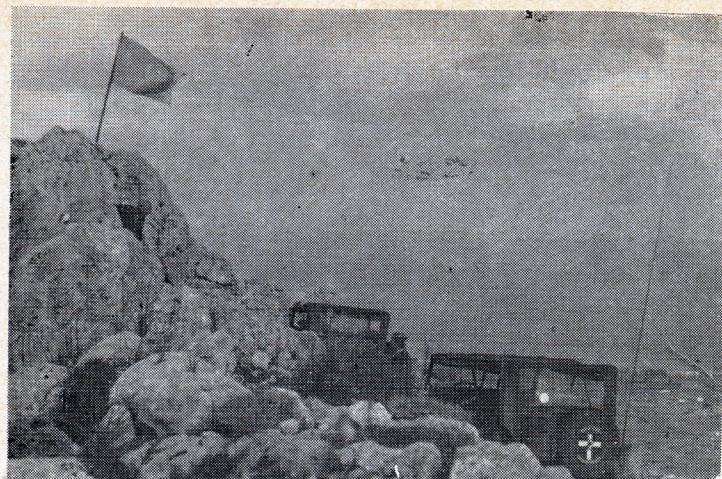
When Major General D. Prem Chand presented Warrant Officer I Olof Bergius with his UNFICYP medal at Famagusta last Saturday, it was just like old times. For Olof Bergius it was the second medal that he has earned as a UN peace-keeper. The first was for service in the Congo, and the Force Commander recalled that he himself had also presented the Swedish Warrant Officer with his medal on that occasion. — More pictures of the Swedcon Medal Parade on page 3.

Major B. Lagerström began by tracing the history of Finland and was followed by Lieutenant J. Siliavou who illustrated his talk on the Finnish economy with a film. The third speaker was Major P. Pitkänen who explained the Finnish Political system.

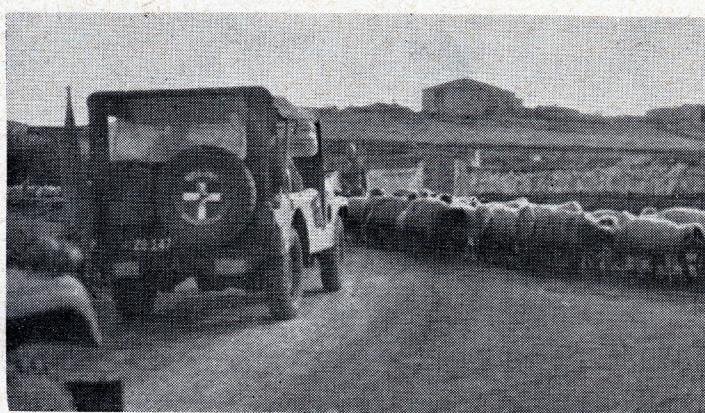
In a lighter vein, Finnish hospitality was amusingly illustrated by a Sauna comedy sketch. At the conclusion of the presentation more orthodox refreshments were available for the enjoyment of the guests.

The presentation provided a fascinating glimpse at a beautiful country and was much enjoyed by those who attended.





● Man holder et lille hvil ved ankomsten til Ambelikou, hvor OP'en "checkes" før turen går videre.



● Patruljen møder på sin vej mod Angoulemi en sindig fåreflok på vej hjem, og må holde en lille pause, inden man kan fortsætte.



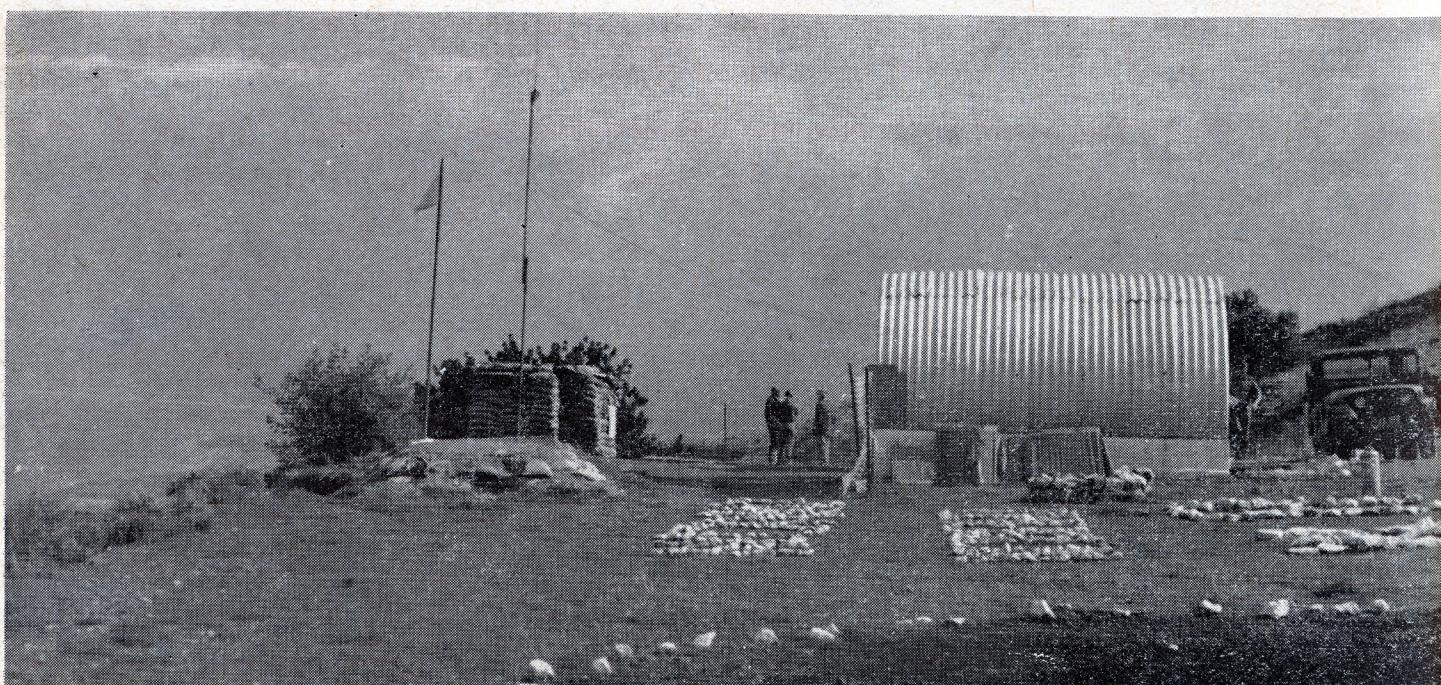
● Skiltet, der for rejsende fra Nicosia markerer, at man nu kører ind i Gaziveran.



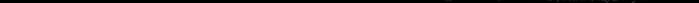
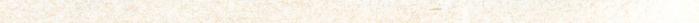
● Lidt længere fremme ad vejen møder man UN-posten og lejren. Det er her KS J.P. Jensen, der tager sin vagtørn.



● På OP Limekiln, får man sig en forfriskning og en hyggelig sludder med kammeraterne om de sidste nyheder.



DANCON NYT

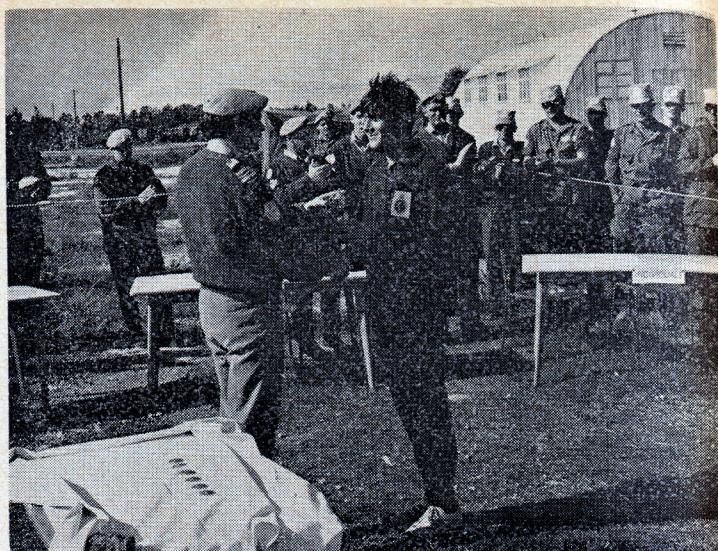


SPORTING SUCCESSES FOR 3 RGJ

BOXING... — In the NEAR-ELF Boxing Championships held at Famagusta on the 27th and 28th February, the 3 RGJ team virtually swept the board. In the finals, the team were victors in no less than nine of the twelve bouts which they contested, and of these, four were wins by a knockout. The battalion team is to be warmly congratulated on their success.

...AND CROSS COUNTRY — In the UNFICYP Cross Country Competition held at Nicosia on 4th March, the Green Jackets achieved another convincing victory. With four runners in the first six places, the battalion team had a clear win over Swedeon, the runners up, by 13 points to 39.

• Corporal Dick Laurence who completed the 5 mile course in 26 minutes is seen here receiving the prize for the best runner.



Britcon News

LIMASSOL CARNIVAL

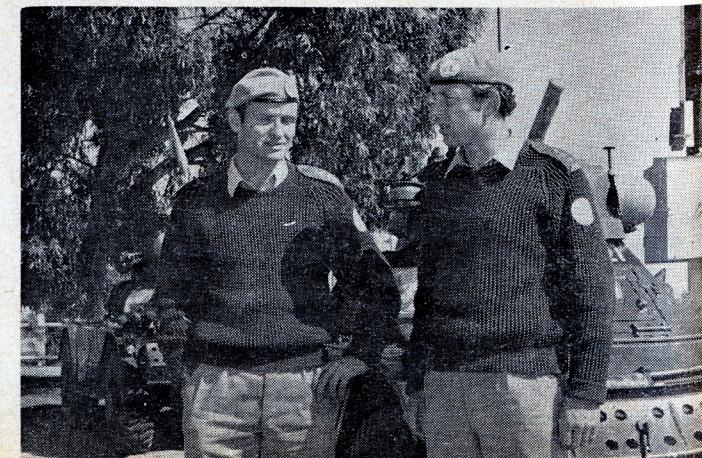
One of the star attractions of the Limassol Carnival Parade was the band of the 3rd Royal Green Jackets, who got a spontaneous and enthusiastic reception from the crowds all along the route. Despite the pouring rain, the streets of Limassol were packed for this gay and carefree occasion.



BROTHERS TOGETHER

Captain David Roe (left) and Captain Peter Roe (right) have a bond both on and off duty. It is not unusual to find two brothers serving together in the same regiment, but when they are both officers, and both filling the only two Captain appointments in the same squadron — then you have a story.

Captain David Roe has only just joined 'C' Squadron The Royal Hussars in Nicosia. He was just in time to be able to congratulate his brother Peter on becoming the 1971 NEARELF Squash Champion. In the finals he beat Captain M. Conroy, the Medical Officer attached to 3 RGJ.



GOC VISITS 1 SQN RCT

Driver J.M. Webster (left) and Driver G.D. Bastle (centre) get words of encouragement from Major General M.W. Holme, the GOC NEAR-ELF who was touring the lines of 1 Squadron RCT during his visit to British units serving with HQ UNFICYP 2/Lieutenant Mark Dowdall keeps a watchful eye on the hosepipe!

MEDAL PRESENTATION TO IRCON

On Thursday 25th February members of the 19 Infantry Group, who are on their first tour of overseas service in Cyprus, received their UN medals from the Force Commander, Major General D. Prem Chand in a colourful ceremonial parade at Zyyi Camp.

On arrival he was met by Lieutenant Colonel Tom Tracey, Officer Commanding 19 Infantry Group, and inspected a Guard of Honour under the command of Lieutenant Fergus Marshall. Later Major General D. Prem Chand presented medals to a representative body of officers, NCOs and men and addressed the troops on parade.

He congratulated the 19 Infantry Group on an excellent parade, and expressed his satisfaction on the way in which all ranks have carried out their duties since their arrival in Cyprus. Music for the parade was provided by 19 Infantry Group Pipe Band.

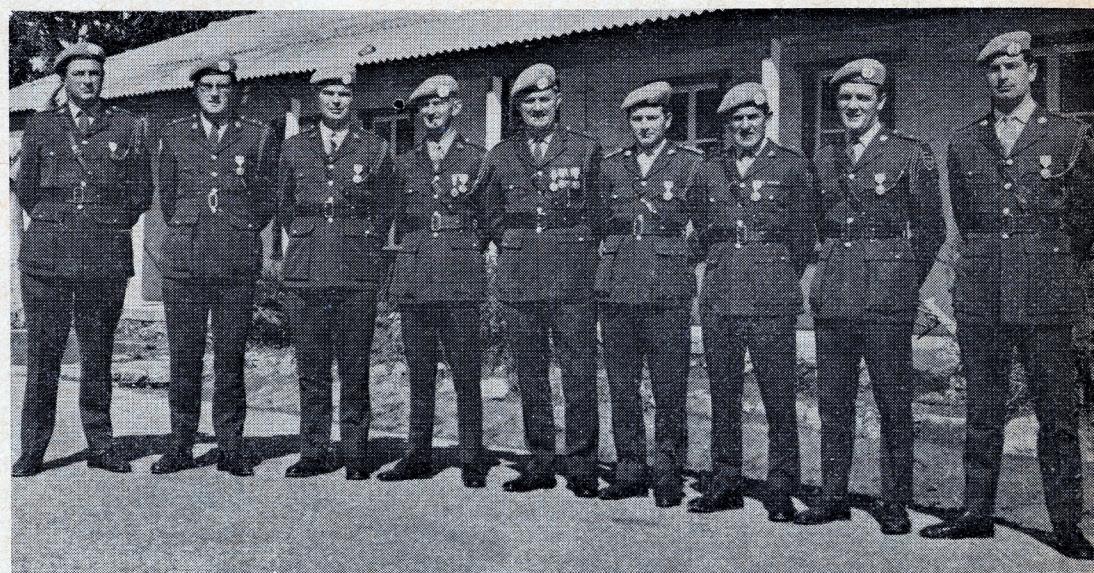
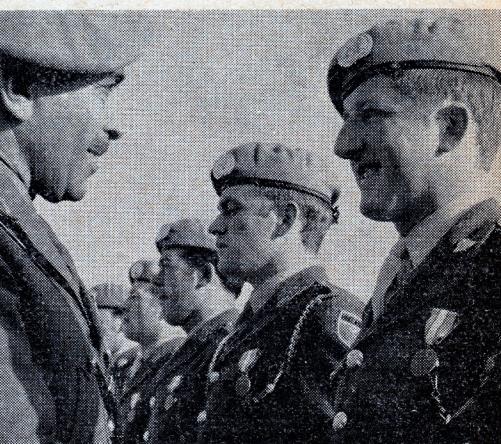
After the ceremony the Force Commander and guests were entertained in the Officers Mess.

• Major General D. Prem Chand inspects the Guard of Honour escorted by Lieutenant Fergus Marshall.



• The General has a word with Signaller Eddie Murphy during the presentation of medals.

Signaller Murphy is a native of Glenmalig Co. Carlow and is on his first tour of overseas duty.



• The Force Commander congratulates Commandant Mick O'Shea OC A Company after presenting him with the UN medal.

FILM EXPERT

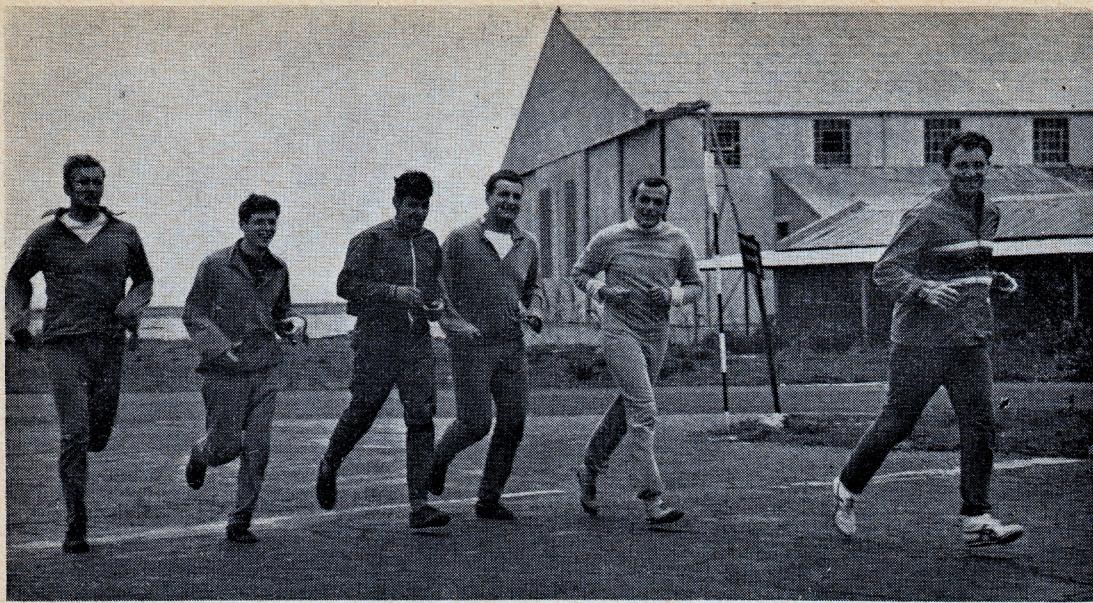
It is difficult to select a film that will satisfy all tastes, and it is almost impossible to provide good films continuously. One of the men prepared to "run the gauntlet" as a film selector is Corporal Hugh Green (AHQ Sigs).



• The photograph shows Corporal Green at the Services Kinema Corporation, Larnaca, having made his selection for this week. We shall soon know if he has a good choice.

• Left to right Captains P. Trears, D. Heraughty, H. Johnston, Commandant F. Dunne, Lt. Col. T. Tracey, Lieutenant P. Pender, Captain J. Murphy, Lieutenant T. McCarthy and F. Marshall.

IRCON NEWS



KEEPING FIT

On Sunday 28th February, "just for the fun of it", a team of 6 members of HQ UNFICYP ran in relay the 48 miles from the Summit of Mount Olympus to Nicosia Airport.

The team ran in individual legs of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, so that each runner completed a total of $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Making an early start, the team encountered very wintry conditions. However, their enthusiasm could

● The team composed of Staff Sergeants George Gilder, Gerry Keelor, Sergeants Fin Hansen, "Taff" Wathan and Privates "Taff" Grey and Ian Liang "showing off their paces".

not be damped, and the total course was completed in 5 hours.

Although they were not trying to race against the clock, it was nevertheless a very satisfactory time for "amateurs". The main aim was to get out of camp and see some of the countryside.

RECOVERY ASSISTANCE:

"HOW NOT TO DO IT"

Recovery during silent hours is controlled by UNFICYP Workshop REME assisted by the Force Reserve. An incident occurred recently which demonstrates the problems of language differences and interpretation of terms.

At about 1600 hours on 23 Feb. the Ops Duty Officer received a request from Nicosia District for assistance to recover a "cow" which was drowning in a well. Apparently, due to the odd nature of the request, the BRITCON Duty Officer was asked to pass the message, during which "cow" became "car", and "car" in turn became a truck broken down in a water system. In each case there was said to be a danger of fouling the water system. It was also understood that the Turkish National Contingent had already damaged their heavy wrecker in trying to extricate the casualty. By this time, however, "cow" had already been reintroduced into the request, but the workshop, not quite sure that it was not having its leg pulled, had the duty recovery vehicle standing by. The Workshop Comman-

der, innocently visiting the Officer's Mess picked up the discussion and decided to check out the request. It appeared that a cow had fallen down a deep well, one report said 25 feet deep the other 40 feet deep. It was not clear if this was in water or not, but it was reported that the cow had passed away thereby removing some of the urgency. Remembering the maxim "Time spent on reconnaissance is seldom wasted", he went to the scene and found a large crowd surrounding a deep dry brick lined well shaft. At the bottom, the luckless cow (still alive and 8 months pregnant) was being lashed by one horn and one leg prior to recovery by two Turkish National Contingent vehicles. To the interest of the crowd, heedless of the dangers of the winch rope, the animal was brought to the surface and deposited in twelve inches of mud from which, 15 minutes later, it got up and walked away.

Needless to say the request was unusual, the officers involved soon saw the funny side, and no visible damage was suffered by the cow in the end.

MP NOTEBOOK

ACCIDENTS — UNFICYP

| | |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Week Ending | |
| 6 March 1971 | — 5 |
| Same Period | |
| Last Year | — 9 |
| Total This Year | — 49 |
| Same Period | |
| Last Year | — 86 |
| Main Cause Of Accidents This Week: | |
| "FAILING TO YIELD RIGHT OF WAY" | |

SIGNALLERS LIAISE

The natural terrain of Cyprus, plus the ever changing atmospheric conditions, can create considerable communication problems. Add to this the fact that in UNFICYP there are eight different nationalities, with a variety of equipment, and you have all the ingredients of a signallers nightmare!

It is therefore of the utmost importance that regular inter-contingent discussions take place in order that a high standard of communications can be maintained within the Force.

The most recent Senior NCO's Signal Convention, held at HQ UNFICYP, brought together signallers from as far apart as Tjiklos and Polis and Famagusta and Xeros. In his opening address, the Chief Signal Officer, Lieutenant Colonel D. D. Ranft, outlined the importance of inter-contingent assistance plus the necessity to work and liaise frequently with CYTA.

Captain G. Finney then gave a short talk on the role of 644 Signal Troop in UNFICYP, and this was followed by briefs from Sergeant Dick Richardson, 3rd Royal Green Jackets, and Sergeant Ken Boulter, "C" Squadron Royal Hussars, on the signals role of their respective units. The

convention was presided over by Warrant Officer II (Y of S) P. C. Wood.

The morning session concluded with a visit to CYTA. This visit was of special interest as CYTA is at present installing a new automatic telephone exchange.



In January 1971 the United Nations Postal Administration began issuing commemorative stamps simultaneously in United States and Swiss denominations. The second of these is on the theme, "International Support for Refugees".

There will be three denominations, 6 c, 13 c, and F s. 0.50, and the date of issue will be the 12th March, 1971.

COLLECTORS CORNER

Philatelists will be interested in a special First Day Cover which was produced in February 1970 by 1 Squadron RCT to celebrate its centenary.

A limited number of these First Day Covers are available from the unit, together with the 1970 Commonwealth Games Cover.

Price for the two — 200 mils.



The BLUE BERET is published by the Information Office of the United Nations Force in Cyprus, (UNFICYP)

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THE BLUE BERET

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